

Dear Youth Leader,

Do you want your students to have a giving heart? Do you want to help them have a heart for the lost? These four-week Spread the Word Web-based sessions will be instrumental in helping your students learn the importance of their role in helping to reach a lost world.

Here are a few tips to help you teach these sessions.

There are four sessions and each one is designed for one hour. In parentheses, you will see the estimated time each exercise takes in bold under each section.

The sessions are designed to be taught consecutively and in this order:

Lesson One: Situation Critical

Lesson Two: The Cure

Lesson Three: The Mission

Lesson Four: You Can Make a Difference

The plan for each of the sessions is as follows:

Starting the Mission (15)

Focusing on the Mission (10)

Training for the Mission (15)

Understanding the Mission (10)

Moving Toward the Mission (10)

Feel free to use the whole session or only those pieces that work best for you; adapting them to make the greatest impact on your ministry.

You can find more information and some pictures of STW projects by clicking on the STW logo at www.chogy.org. Remember STW is about changing the lives of those who give as well as those who receive.

Blessings to you as we work together to raise up a new generation of Christ-centered leaders.

Lesson One

Situation Critical

Objectives:

- To help students realize the lostness of the world
- To help students understand the sinfulness of humanity
- To challenge students to make a difference

Material:

- Bibles for everyone
- Paper for everyone
- Pencils for everyone
- 10 dimes total

Starting the Mission (15)

(Note: We realize that there are different statistics from different researchers on the unchurched population. For our purposes, statistics were taken from research by George Barna and Dr. Ray Dykes.)

Begin by placing ten dimes on a table so that all the students can see them. Then ask the students:

- How many dimes do I have on the table? ten
- How much money is that equal to? One dollar
- What if I pick up three dimes, how much is that equal to? Thirty cents
- What percent is three dimes out of ten? 30 percent
- What if I told you that 30 percent of a certain country was unchurched? Would you like to guess what country or countries that would be?

Finally, let them know that 30 percent of the population of the United States (and probably 30 percent of the population in the town or city where you live in) is unchurched.

Now place only six dimes on the table. Then ask the students:

- How many dimes do I have on the table? six
- How much money is that equal to? Sixty cents
- Then pick up one dime and ask what percent of six dimes is one dime? Between 16 and 17 percent

Then tell them know that one out of six unchurched people is *temporarily* unchurched. That means that around 17 percent of the unchurched population can be reached by the institutional church.

Now place six dimes on the table. Then pick up six dimes and let them know that researchers suggest that five out of six unchurched people are never going to be members of the institutional church in its present form.

Summary:

- Thirty percent of the U.S. population is unchurched
- One out of six unchurched people are *temporarily* unchurched

Five out of six unchurched people are never going to be a member of a church
Ask, after hearing these statistics, how can you make this mission impossible a mission possible? (Note: Consider playing the theme music from *Mission Impossible* while you do this.)

Focusing on the Mission (10)

Begin with a statement like this: When we begin to see that the world that we live in is lost, it is important to examine why it is lost.

Then ask, What are some things that we deal with on a daily basis that cloud our thinking? What are things that remind us that we live in a world that is far from God?

Give them a chance to name some ideas here. Below are some examples.

- Television commercials
- Television shows
- Movies
- The language we hear at school
- The actions of students relieving stress
- Taking prayer out of schools

Discuss how these different areas remind us that many live far from the character of God.

Training for the Mission (15)

Divide the students into two circles. Have group one read 1 John 2:15–17 and have group two read Matthew 18:10–14.

After the students have read their Bible passages, ask them these questions:

Group one

- Are we supposed to love the things of this world?
- What are the three things in this world?
- What happens to the person who does God's will?

Group two

- Why did Jesus, the Son of Man come?
- How many sheep did the man lose?
- What was the human response after finding the sheep that had been lost?

God desires that we recognize that he has come to save the lost. Every person counts, no matter what sin that they are practicing. God desires that we be an example to all that are lost. What kind of example are we to the world?

Understanding the Mission (10)

There are 6,412,064,319 in the world (World Gazetteer, 2005; www.world-gazetteer.com). Many have never accepted Jesus Christ into their lives as their personal Savior.

What are some practical things that we can do to help point this lost generation to Jesus Christ? Write a list of ideas on your paper that we can discuss as possible solutions. After

working individually, ask the students to get into groups of four and come up with some practical things they can do. Have them give some scripture helps to support their answers.

For example:

Invite a friend who does not have a relationship with Christ to church

Don't be a hypocrite

Daily walk in God's love

Read our Bibles

Pray (Talk to God)

Choose your friends wisely

Witness

Scriptures

Hebrews 10:25

James 1:8; 1:22–25

1 Corinthians 13:4–8

Psalms 1:2; 2 Tim 2:15

1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16

Psalms 1:1

John 3:16

Moving toward the Mission (10)

Have the students write down a list of people that they know who have not accepted Jesus Christ into their lives. Then have them identify the best practical method for sharing Jesus' love with those individuals. (You can take some ideas from the previous discussion).

One practical way of moving toward our mission is to use the Church of God national youth **360** program. It is very simple and easy to remember. *Think of 3 people that you come in contact on a regular basis. Pray for these 3 people 6 times a week. Then, make sure that you miss 0 opportunities God gives you to share his love.* For a four-week lesson series on the **360** concept that you can teach to students, go to www.chogy.org.

For the closing prayer, ask each student to spend some time alone praying over their list and possible strategies of how to share Jesus with those on their list. (It would be great to have some music playing, such as "People Need the Lord" or some other appropriate song).

Prayer:

Thank God for reminding us all how big the world really is! Also, thank God for reminding us that we can be an instrument in bringing people to him.

Have students repeat:

John 3:16 at the end of the prayer. Amen!

References:

George Barna: www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=163

Dr. Ray Dykes and the Personal Faith Program present:

A Preliminary Report Back to the Church from the Land of the Unchurched

For further information, contact Dr. Ray Dykes, 405-728-2844

Lesson Two: The Cure—JC, the Only Way!

Objectives:

To help students realize that there are many people in the world that have never heard the gospel story

To communicate the importance of sharing the gospel message
To challenge students to spend their time and money on what they value

Materials Needed:

\$1 bills for each group

Copies of the Mission Quiz

10 pennies per person or per group

6 nickels per person or per group

6 dimes per person or per group

2 quarters per person or per group

Copies of the Time Allotment Chart

16 paper cups and a marker (prelabel the cups—see shopping spree below)

Bibles

Pens

Starting the Mission: Clearance Mission (15)

Divide your students into smaller groups if needed. Give each group a dollar bill. Each person will get two tries to go from a standing position to completely jump over the money. The following are the directions and rules.

1. Your goal is to clear the distance lengthwise of the \$1 bill.
2. You must start from a standing position.
3. You must jump forward over the bill.
4. If you fall down, you are disqualified.
5. Your heels must clear the vertical plane at the end of the bill.
6. You must grab your toes with two hands on both feet and not let go.

Debriefing:

How does it feel to be asked to do a task that is not possible? What emotions do you exhibit when you feel as though you cannot complete the job you have been given?

What are some situations in the lives of teenagers that you feel are impossible to solve?

What are some situations in the world that you feel are impossible tasks?

Note: This will be an almost impossible task, but be sure to have a large prize ready for whoever can do this just in case. Nothing in the rules states that they can't have someone help them jump from a standing position and be carried across the money, thus achieving the goal. Sometimes we limit ourselves simply because we think we must complete a task by ourselves. If we look around, we realize that there are others that feel as hopeless or alone as we do and need as much help as we do.

Focusing on the Mission: Recon Mission (10)

The following quiz (a master copy is at the end) will help each student understand that it is not just people in the United States or North America who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, but that it is a universal problem. There are people in civilized, uncivilized, third world, and developing groups that may never hear the gospel message!

The Quiz

1. Approximately how many people are there in the world today?

- A. 5.9 billion
B. 6.2 billion
- C. 6.1 billion
D. 6.4 billion
2. Of these people, how many have never heard the message of Jesus Christ?
A. 2 million
B. 20 million
- C. 200 million
D. 2 billion
3. Of these people mentioned in question number two, what percentage of them are living in poverty?
A. 25%
B. 50 %
- C. 75%
D. 100%
4. How many countries make up the majority of people who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ?
A. 47 countries
B. 95 countries
- C. 140 countries
D. 289 countries
5. How many different languages are spoken in the countries represented in question #4?
A. 150 languages
B. 1700 languages
- C. 650 languages
D. 2100 languages

There is a direct link between the number of people who have not heard about Jesus Christ and those in poverty situations. The next few questions will deal with this fact.

6. Approximately what percentage of Americans live in poverty?
A. 2%
B. 14%
- C. 11%
D. 2%
7. How many children around the world are born into poverty everyday?
A. 2000
B. 2500
- C. 5000
D. 10,000
8. Where do most people live that are in poverty?
A. Big cities
B. Rural areas
- C. Suburbs
D. All of the above
9. How many people in the world live on less than one dollar a day or have an annual income of less than \$365 a year?
A. 1 billion
B. 1 million
- C. 100 million
D. 2 billion
10. Which country is considered the poorest in world?
A. Kenya
B. Honduras
- C. India
D. Tanzania
11. About how much money has been given through the Spread the Word Program since its inception in Denver at IYC 2002?
A. \$100,000
B. \$150,000
- C. \$200,000
D. \$250,000
12. Approximately how many different missionaries or national church leaders have been supported through the funds that teenagers have given to Spread the Word?
A. 54
B. 80
- C. 13
D. 37
13. How many countries have used money from Spread the Word to reach others with the message of Jesus Christ?

A. 11
B. 23

C. 18
D. 8

Answers to the Quiz:

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 1) | D | 6.4 Billion |
| 2) | D | 2 Billion |
| 3) | C | 75% |
| 4) | C | 140 Countries |
| 5) | B | 1700 Languages |
| 6) | B | 14% |
| 7) | B | 2500 |
| 8) | D | All of the Above |
| 9) | A | 1 Billion |
| 10) | D | Tanzania |
| 11) | D | \$250,000 |
| 12) | B | a good estimate is around 80 |
| 13) | C | 18 |

Training for the Mission: Global Ops (15)

Right now, the fastest growing religion in the world is Islam. The Muslims have achieved this by their strict and almost legalistic teaching on self-sacrifice and self-giving. In Islam, the rights or needs of the community are preached more than the rights and needs of the individual. As one reads and hears about the practices of the Muslim religion, it is easy to see that many of their values are the same ones that Jesus Christ preached in the gospels.

Here is a case in point. Thirty-five-year-old Hisham Hussein found his lifestyle of drugs, alcohol, and many women was leaving him empty, lonely, and confused. He turned to Islam after a car accident involving drinking. He is quoted as saying, “The most important thing is to maintain the purity of the Hajj, to lead a pure life.” Something very similar to what a Christian might say.

As Western Christians, we are facing a shift in our thought processes. Many teenagers, college students, and adults are beginning to believe that the practices of different religions around the world are so similar as to be interchangeable. There are emerging beliefs that teach that it does not matter what religion you follow as long as you adhere to its practices, because many of the teachings are viewed as the same. While there are good things to learn from other belief systems, their ideas and thoughts must be balanced against the words of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. In other words, the Buddhists have a strong emphasis on the disciplines of silence, solitude, and meditation, which are actually disciplines quite present in the biblical text and in the history of Christianity. These disciplines are a vital part of the life of a Christian, though often not emphasized as strongly in the American church. A Buddhist’s commitment to these disciplines, directed toward a statue, should inspire the Christian believer to be even more disciplined. After all, as John 14:1–17 points out, we serve the very Son of God.

The same is true for Islam and its strong emphasis on purity, peace, and wholeness. While Muslims are committed to these teachings, there is no spirit that guides them daily. We have the very Spirit of an active God that serves as our counselor, guide, and friend.

(At this point, ask different students read to through the following passage from John. Interrupt the reading with the printed questions as you dive into the Word together)

John 14:1–17

¹ “Don’t be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. ² There are many rooms in my Father’s home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”

Observation Questions

- A. Why does Jesus ask the disciples not to be troubled?
- B. What does Jesus promise the disciples he will do when he leaves them?
- C. How long do those who have a relationship with Jesus get to stay in Jesus’ Father’s house?

⁴ And you know where I am going and how to get there.” ⁵ “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We haven’t any idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my Father is. From now on you know him and have seen him!” ⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus replied, “Philip, don’t you even yet know who I am, even after all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking to see him? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of what you have seen me do.

Interpretation Questions

- A. Why do you think Thomas told Jesus he had no idea where [Jesus] was going?
- B. How does one get to the Father? Why is that significant in dealing with other religions in the world? Why does that make it important for us to spread the Word?
- C. What is Jesus’ relationship with his Father? According to verse 10, where does Jesus’ Father live?
- D. Jesus Christ and the Father are “in” each other. What does that tell you about the Creator God and his plan to reconcile or bring people back to him?

¹² “The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it! ¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Application Questions

- A. According to verse 13, for what purpose and reason should we do our work here on earth?

- B. How should we show our love for Jesus Christ every day? What have we been given to help us, and how does that gift help you every day? How can this help you as you spread the message of Jesus Christ to other people?
- C. In verse 17, Jesus tells us that the world cannot receive the Spirit because it is not looking for it. What does that tell us about our role in helping the world understand Jesus' teachings?

Understanding the Mission: Mission Interrogation (10)

God calls some to be foreign missionaries—and that *might* be you. God calls some to support those who are taking the message to the world—and that *is* you. All of us are called to be messengers to the world by sharing the good news and peace that Jesus Christ brings.

Jesus is the only way to the Father and holds the keys to the Kingdom. In other words then, the problem that was discussed last week can only be solved in him alone. There is no other person, no other religion, and no other being that has the same status as Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's only son and, therefore, the only way, truth, and life.

His message is spreading throughout the world, but it needs your help.

If we love him, we do what he commands. Another way to say that is, if we value him, we show him that he has value to us. There are two main ways we show someone or something value—through our time and our money.

(Note: To give your students some perspective, this exercise will help show our values. Divide students into small groups of three to six and give each team the allotted money with values. Have them decide what they are going to spend their money on for a month by putting their money beside the cup indicating these items. If you want, you could substitute fake money like Monopoly money instead of the change)

Shopping Spree: (Note: Put sixteen paper cups on the table with an individual item on each as listed below in the sixteen items you can spend money on.)

Give each team/person:		
10 pennies	=	\$1 per penny
6 nickels	=	\$5 per nickel
6 dimes	=	\$10 per dime
2 quarters	=	\$25 per quarter
Total	=	\$150 allowance per one month

If in teams, they must agree on which cups to spend their money in from the following fifteen items:

- Clothes
- Movies: renting, buying, PPV, theater
- Food, fast food, dates, snacks
- Car: gas, payment, insurance
- Video/computer games/software
- Vacations, day trips

- Youth activities
- Tithe
- Giving to church missions
- Other giving
- CDs, music
- Stereo equipment, TVs, etc.
- Bathroom stuff, hair gel, etc.
- Magazines, books, reading
- Sports
- School

After the teams have indicated where they would spend their money, take a look at where most of the money has gone. Then ask someone to read Matthew 6:21 (NIV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Ask, What does this tell me about my/our values?

Moving toward the Mission: Your Mission: Should You Choose to Accept it! (10)

We are then to realize that our lives should be *in* Jesus, as he is *in* his Father.

(Note: Give the students the following chart to take home to complete to see if their time shows that they love Jesus and obey his commands.)

Time Allotment

Item	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
School							
Church							
Friends							
TV/Movies							
Internet							
Video Games							
Eating							
Sleeping							
Prayer/Devo							
Sch Activities							
Shopping							
Working							
Other							
TOTAL							

Debriefing...

- There are more than two billion people in the world who have not heard about Jesus Christ.
- They come from the poorest of the poor of the world.
- They live in more than 140 countries.
- They speak more than seventeen hundred languages.
- They come from more than thirty different religions.

They are from more than eight thousand people groups.

And they are all waiting for you to help spread the Word!

Close with prayer.

Lesson Three: The Mission—Doing our Part

Objectives:

To help students find their heart passion

To help students find God's heart

Materials Needed:

A piece of red construction paper for everyone

A few pairs of scissors (one for every 3 to 4 people)

A writing utensil for everyone

Bibles

Starting the Mission: (15)

Ask, Here's an obvious question: How important is the heart? After some brief discussion, read or distribute the following quotation:

“From the moment it begins beating until the moment it stops, the human heart works tirelessly. In an average lifetime, the heart beats more than two and a half billion times, without ever pausing to rest. Like a pumping machine, the heart provides the power needed for life.

“This life-sustaining power has, throughout time, caused an air of mystery to surround the heart. Modern technology has removed much of the mystery, but there is still an air of fascination and curiosity.” (1)

Say, Pretty amazing, isn't it? But we also use heart to mean other things, don't we? When we talk about the heart, we are talking about the things that we are passionate about.

Jesus tells us that out of our mouths comes what's in the heart. Ask students to look up the following scripture passages and then discuss the question.

- ◆ Matthew 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”—What are we told to do?

See with our heart.

- ◆ Matthew 18:35, “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” What comes from the heart in Matthew 18:35?

Forgiveness comes from the heart.

- ◆ Luke 6:45, “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.” How does the mouth speak?

The mouth reflects the goodness (or evil) that comes from one’s heart.

- ◆ Romans 10:9–10, “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” What must every follower of Jesus do?

We are asked to invite Jesus to live in our heart.

- ◆ Matthew 15:17–20, “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander...” What are we cautioned about?

We are cautioned to keep our hearts pure. Note: We find this same caution in Matthew 15:17–20.

Let’s go back in time a few years. Well, okay, more than a few for some of you. But let’s go back anyhow to a time when you were much younger and things like coloring and creating were important to you.

Provide each person with a piece of red construction paper. Fold it in half and draw or cut a heart shape from it as large or small as you like. If you don’t think your students can go that retro, then just hand out paper and have them make a list.

State, If our passions come from the heart, then it is important to live your life passionately. (Note: As leader, have your own heart ready and share your passions. Be sure they are serious.)

Ask, So what are *you* passionate about? Take a few minutes to list all the things in life that you could honestly declare, “I am passionate about this!” It could be something like...

“I am passionate about _____.” or “This _____ is (very) important to me.”

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). What does your heart treasure? Suggest that they write their list on the construction paper heart or list.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Focusing on the Mission: (10)

Transition by saying something like, We've spent quite a bit of time on learning what scripture tells us about our heart. Can we draw any conclusions from that? What would they be? Provide time for sharing; write their conclusions down on chart paper or white board.

Then, ask the students to look up and read Ephesians 1:15–23

God reveals the human use of the heart in many ways in the Bible. Ephesians 1:17–18 is a good example: “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your *heart* may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has *called* you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints... (NIV, *emphasis* added).

After reading the Ephesians passage, ask, What is Paul teaching us?

(God has called all of us to be passionate for him and his Kingdom; he instructs us to use the eyes of our heart to do it.)

After discussion about the Ephesians passage, ask your students, What do you believe God has called *you* to do? (Note: Ask the question out loud around the table or ask them to write down the answer and add it to their paper heart or lists.)

Training for the Mission: (15)

Begin this section by saying, From my vantage point, I don't know specifically what God has called you to be or how he has called you to use your heart for the Kingdom. But I do know that there are a few things that every Christian shares when it comes to following God's call. He has specific and personal plans for each of us, but he has called *all* Christians to the same two things.

Grab your Bibles again and look up Matthew 22:35–40 to see what Jesus calls the first important thing we are called to do.

There was an expert in the law who approached Jesus and asked him what question?

A. Write the question here:

(“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”)

Jesus responded with what two-part answer?

B. Write Jesus' first answer here:

(“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”)

C. Write Jesus' second answer here:

(“Love your neighbor as yourself.”)

Then ask, In this same passage, what does Jesus want you to see with your hearts?”

(If we see with our hearts what God wants us to see, we'll find a world that needs to know him.)

State, Some people pray that we would see people with Jesus' eyes. What do you think they mean by that? (Meaning that we would have the love and compassion for others that Jesus did. Jesus looked on people and first saw their hearts. He reached out to them.)

Ask, Why do you suppose it is so important to Jesus for us to see others the way he does?

Then ask, Have you ever gone people-watching? Maybe just sat at the mall and watched people go by. Or perhaps you've had some time in an airport or while waiting for a movie to wonder just what are people doing and what are their lives and their families like?

It may take some time and practice, but with a little bit of thought, we can learn to see people in some of the ways that Jesus did.

Let's look and see why we can say that...

Understanding the Mission: (10)

(Note: Take the time here to let the students not only figure the following answers from Scripture but also to wrestle with how they can personally take action from their conclusions and the scriptures.)

What does it mean to you to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength"?

How do *you* plan to accomplish that?

Jesus commanded it, so we have to ask, Do I love my neighbor as myself? In what ways?

One way we are trying to live out God's call as individuals and as Church of God youth is through the 360 program. If you haven't heard about it (it was briefly mentioned in lesson one), in its most simplified form, it works like this. Pray and think about **three** people you know—family, friends or people you go to school or work with possibly—who don't know Jesus. Commit to pray **six** times per week specifically that God would prepare their heart. Then be prepared yourself so you don't miss any opportunities.

Think of 3 people
Pray for them 6 times a week
Miss 0 (Zero) opportunities.

Ask, Do you see where the 360 comes from?

Go ahead and try it now for yourselves.

Think about which three people you want to pray for. (Note: this could be a reminder for those who did this in lesson one or at another time. It could also be a place for those who have not yet completed a list to complete a list.)

1.

2.

Will you commit to pray for them six times a week?

Why not start now? (Note: A commitment to pray for six out of seven days gives us a grace day. If we forget to pray, we just get started again.)

Will you be prepared so you miss zero (0) opportunities to share the gospel with them?

What would you have to do to prepare yourself? (Study Scripture, learn a way to share the gospel that's comfortable for you like the wheel illustration or Roman Road, and have your personal testimony ready that you could share in two minutes or less.)

(Note to leaders: you can find a free four-lesson series on the 360 strategy to teach to your students at www.chogy.org.)

Moving toward the Mission: (10)

If you remember from earlier, there are *two* specific things that God has in mind when he calls each of us? The first was to “Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as our self.”

To find the second, again go to the book of Matthew and read 28:19–20. You may be very familiar with this passage of scripture, so after you read it, unless you have it memorized, why don't you write down what it really means in your own words on your construction paper heart or list.

This passage is known as the Great Commission. Jesus commissions or challenges us and calls each of us to go to all the world and make disciples in his name. There's no small print there—go to all the world, rich and poor, no matter what race, age, or where someone lives.

Too often we consider the world to be somewhere out there far, far, away and forget about making a difference in the lives of people immediately around us. Jesus told the disciples and then all believers to start locally before they branched out into the world (Acts 1:8).

We want to use 360 to accomplish the Great Commission. If you haven't committed yet to take part in this, why not rethink your decision? Partner with God to make the difference in the life of someone you especially care about.

We opened up this session with a message from the Heart Institute. It called the life sustaining power of the heart fascinating and curious. It also said that modern technology has removed some of the heart's mystery.

Spread the Word unlocks the spiritual side of your heart. Use what you are passionate about and whom you are passionate about to make a difference in the life of the kingdom of God. Then you will indeed love the Lord your God and go and make disciples of all nations!

Why not start 360 today, if you haven't already done so? Why not also combine your passion for your friends by giving to support the Spread the Word offering. When we put a little bit all together, we can make a huge difference for God!

- So what decisions are you going to make today?
- Are you going to open your heart to see what God wants you to see?
- Are you willing to see other people the way Jesus sees them?
- Will you pray for three people and make a difference in their lives using 360?
- Will you support, along with other Church of God youth, the Spread the Word offering to put evangelism materials in the field?

Sounds like you love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself, and you're ready to go and make disciples of all nations! If your heart is ready, then so are you.

Want some more ideas? Visit the Church of God youth Web site and click on Spread the Word. It's located at www.chogy.org. There are many options available to help you invest in Eternity.

(1) Developed by The Franklin Institute Science Museum with support from Unisys Corporation. © 1996 The Franklin Institute Science Museum Web site: sln.fi.edu/biosci/heart.html

Lesson Four: You Can Make a Difference

Objectives:

- To help students see the difference they can make for eternity
- To help students get excited about STW
- To help students see they are key individual parts of God's team

Materials Needed:

- Puzzle—size depends on group. (See Starting the Mission section.)
- Piece of cardboard or table to put the puzzle together
- Bibles
- Pens
- STW commitment sheets

Starting the Mission: (15)

You can make a difference:

Depending on the size of your group, find a puzzle with a similar number of pieces to your group size and give each person in the group a piece of the puzzle. For example if you have forty-five people in your group, a fifty-piece puzzle would work great. If you have ten in your group, a smaller puzzle would work, etc. If you have a smaller group and wanted to do a larger puzzle, you could give each person two or three pieces.

There are a couple of options as to how you might do this exercise.

Option One: Secure a piece of cardboard and let the students put the puzzle together on it. Have a few come up at a time or all of them, depending on the size of your group. Remember you only have fifteen minutes, so you may want to use option two.

Since July 2002, more than \$240,000 has been given to Spread the Word. STW helps spread the gospel around the world by making tools for evangelism available. Since that time, the money has gone to help spread the gospel on six continents and in eighteen countries.

Here are some of the things teenagers have helped provide and some of the testimonies given from those on the field.

STW funds have helped purchase two motorcycles in Brazil to serve the Churches of God and new preaching points in the region (mostly along the Amazon Highway); bicycles and motorcycles for local pastors in Africa to be able to share the gospel in hard-to-reach areas; the production of the *Jesus* video by a Turkish cast in Turkey (approved by the government, PTL); sound equipment for church plants in Australia and Grenada; evangelism materials in Latin America; a youth outreach center in Hungary; a video projector for outreach in Russia; a used ambulance for inner-city ministry in North America; a sound system for evangelistic outreach in Honduras; a van to train young leaders for evangelism in Lebanon; funds have gone to help evangelism efforts in Hong Kong and Taiwan; a van for evangelism in Kenya; two motorcycles to help church plants in Northeast Brazil; boat and motor for hard-to-reach areas in Uganda; a radio antenna to transmit God's message in Paraguay; and the list goes on. God is at work!

Listen to some of the testimonies:

Brazil: This is a report from an evangelistic campaign in Brazil using a video projector provided by STW.

“Thirteen people accepted Christ as their personal Savior and about twenty made a recommitment of their lives. Everyone said how useful and beautiful the video projector that the youth made available to us was in their campaign. Please tell all those who had a part how grateful we are.”

With Thanks, Oreste e Marlene (Boa Terra do Norte)

Ecuador: “Before I would have to walk for hours to reach our churches. By the time I arrived, I was very tired and could only stay for the service and then leave for the long walk back to Lumbaqui. I can now go into new areas and have much more time for sharing the gospel. Please tell those who have given us this motorcycle how grateful we are, and how encouraged it has made us. Please also continue to pray for us here in Lumbaqui. Sometimes we feel forgotten; we live so far in the jungle.”
Sincerely, Pastor Maximo Cocheres

Tanzania: “The giving of bicycles to pastors here in Tanzania is something that Caroline and I have been doing on a small scale for the past thirteen years. In almost every case, the bicycle has helped the pastor to spread the Word, visit people in the congregation, attend pastoral meetings, and visit people in the hospital. We can't thank you enough for allowing us to use these funds in this way. We've never had fifty at once, and it's causing quite a stir. Thank you for giving them a wonderful sense of affirmation as they marvel that the Christian youth in the United States care

about them and their ministries.”
Don & Caroline Armstrong, Missionaries to Tanzania

Honduras: “We attended an outdoor evangelistic service in La Concepcion where approximately four hundred Hondurans gathered to hear the gospel proclaimed. Sound equipment purchased through Spread The Word was used to make the service possible. God’s presence was evident, and as a result of his work, ten Hondurans accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior!”

Tami Bryd, Youth Network Team Member

God is doing incredible things through Spread the Word because teenagers from around North America are working together.

Training for the Mission: (15)

In Acts, the author writes a lot about giving and working as a team.

Divide into smaller groups and have each group read Acts. 2:42–47. Then ask them to come up with some of the things that the believers in the early church were doing. Then have the groups come back together to share their findings.

Here are some of the things they were doing:

- They devoted themselves to
- Teaching
- Fellowship
- Eating together
- Prayer
- Selling extra possessions to help those in need
- Sharing things
- Worshiping together
- Eating together

They were working as a team. And God was adding to the church. They started with around 120 and quickly grew to 5,000 because of each of them working together using their puzzle piece to complete God’s work. Did you notice that they took care of each other? Those who had more helped those who had less.

Understanding the Mission: (10)

Spending Allotment: Give students the following sheet and have them give a rough estimate how much money they spend on these items each week

How much do you estimate you spend in a typical week on:							
CDs							

Clothes, shoes, etc.							
Movies							
Video Games							
Food and eating out							
Soft Drinks							
Other Shopping							
Weekly TOTAL							

After they have filled out their sheets, ask them to get with four or five other people and combine their numbers to come up with a total of what the five of them spend per week. Then have the groups report.

Then have them multiply that number by four for an estimate of how much they spend in a month. Even in lower socioeconomic situations, the size of this number will probably be a surprise. Then have the groups report.

Now ask them to figure 10 percent of that number. What is it?

Moving Toward the Mission: (10)

As we learned early on, there are billions of people who have never heard the gospel.

Have students turn to and underline Romans 10:13–15 in their Bibles. Have one of them read it aloud.

for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (NIV)

Discuss with your group:

What do you think this verse is saying? (Everyone can be saved, but someone needs to get the message out to them.)

You see, then, we all have a piece of the puzzle that makes a difference in eternity.

From the earlier exercise, of all the things on which we spend our money, how many of them will last forever? (none)

Why not take some of our money and invest in a life for eternity?

You may have done this in lesson one or you may have waited until now. What if during the next three months, you cut back by at least 10 percent the amount of money you spend each week and gave that money to STW. For example, drink one less soft drink a day and save that money for STW. Buy one less CD or video game a month and give that to help change a life for eternity. Save money on the theater and rent a movie instead and save the difference for STW.

We need each other and the world needs us. What will you do?

Hand out pledge cards.

Allow a couple of minutes for everyone to think and pray about how God would want them to be a part of investing in eternity.

Ask them to fill out commitment cards and collect the part you keep. Let them know that this is their commitment to God and that you won't contact them about their pledge.

There are a few ways you can do this:

Set a three- to six-month commitment time and announce that date. You could take STW offerings each week.

Come up with whatever works best for your ministry. You know your students best.

Remember that we are all pieces of the puzzle working with hundreds of other teenagers in the Church of God in North America making a difference in our world.

Close with prayer for those who don't know Christ and for our hearts to be broken for them.